

REMARKS

Claims 13-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 13, 14, 17-22 and 25-36 have been amended. Claim 37 has been presented herewith. Claims 1-12 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application including canceled claims 1-12.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement has been filed concurrently herewith. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement, and to confirm that the document submitted therewith has been considered and will be cited of record in the present application.**

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

Applicant notes the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings as filed along with the present application on March 25, 2004.

Enclosed is one (1) red-inked drawing Annotated Sheet, wherein element 62 in Fig. 10 has been denoted as "HUB FUNC.", as supported in paragraph [0101] of the

application. Also enclosed is one (1) drawing Replacement Sheet, incorporating the above noted correction. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the drawing Replacement Sheet.**

Specification

The specification has been reviewed and amended as necessary to improve accuracy and correct any inadvertent errors.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 13-36 are allowed. The claims however have been amended to improve accuracy and antecedent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that claims 13-36 are allowed.

Claim 37

Claim 37, as dependent upon claim 13, features that the plurality of line concentrators are operated under a Universal Serial Bus (USB) standard. These features have been deleted from claim 13. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 should nevertheless be maintained as allowed for at least the same reasons as previously, and that claim 37 should be allowed by virtue of dependency upon claim 13.

Conclusion

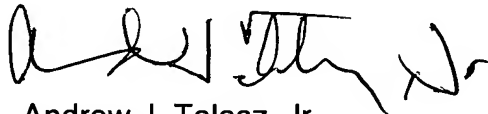
Applicant respectfully notes that the above noted particular amendments to improve accuracy have not been made to further distinguish over any of the relied upon prior art. Accordingly, these particular amendments should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: One (1) drawing Annotated Sheet
One (1) drawing Replacement Sheet



ANNOTATED SHEET

Fig. 10

